

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten heading and paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a tear-off device for sections of a continuous material, with a pullout mechanism and a tearing-off mechanism ~~of the introductory portion of claim 1.~~

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 2, line 3:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Starting out from a tear-off device ~~of the introductory portion of claim 1,~~ for which at least one pressure-applying element can be engaged by means of a positioning device, this objective is accomplished pursuant to the invention owing to the fact that the engagable pressure-applying elements are constructed as eccentric rollers and can be rotated individually or jointly.

Please cancel the following paragraph beginning at page 2,  
line 15:

~~Preferred embodiments of the invention arise out of the  
dependent claims.~~

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph  
before the paragraph starting at page 6, line 1:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph  
before the paragraph starting at page 7, line 1:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION